

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 161128Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2841

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: THAI REACTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 11 SPEECH

REF: BANGKOK 6266

1. THAI REACTION THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAS BEEN MUTED, AND HAS BY AND LARGE SHIED AWAY FROM ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL ISSUES THAT THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED. PRACTICALLY NO THAI HAS VOLUNTEERED HIS REACTIONS TO THE SPEECH ITSELF, BUT SEVERAL HAVE MELDED THEM INTO THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE INDOCHINA SITUATION IN GENERAL AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THAILAND.

2. THE ONE SHARP REACTION WE HAVE RECEIVED CAME FROM A HIGH AND INFLUENTIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO DECRIED THE PRESIDENT'S OMISSION OF A SPECIFIC MENTION OF THAILAND. WITH REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S COMMENTS THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING OTHER ASIAN HEADS OF STATE DURING THE YEAR, OUR INTERLOCTOR POINTED OUT TO THE CHARGE THAT IF THE PRESIDENT WAS PLANNING TO MEET THESE LEADERS DURING AN ASIAN TRIP (PRESUMABLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO PEKING), AND LEFT THAILAND OUT OF HIS ITINERARY, IT WOULD BE A VERY
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SERIOUS METTER.

2. COMMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ALTERED PERCEPTIBLY THAI REACTIONS TO THE INDOCHINA SITUATION OR THAI EXPECTATIONS ABOUT WHAT THE U.S. CAN AND WILL DO TO AMELIORATE THE UNFOLDING DISASTER. US INABILITY TO USE OUR MILITARY POWER OR PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID IN THE CURRENT CRISIS HAS PROVIDED A DRAMATIC CIVICS LESSON IN THE AMERICAN SEPARATION OF POWERS, FEW RESPONSIBLE THAI WILL AT THIS TIME ACCEPT EXECUTIVE BRANCH DELARATIONS OF INTENT IF THEY SUSPECT THAT CONGRESS WILL NOT DELIVER THE GOODS TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES.
MASTERS

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